

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

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DRAFTED BY OES/NET:LVNOSENZO:SK
APPROVED BY OES/NET:LVNOSENZO
T/D - DR. NYE (DRAFT)
EA/J - MR. KILPATRICK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, ENRG, PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: KANSAI MB-10 APPROVAL

1. MINISTER SUMIYA, COUNSELOR NAGARA AND FIRST SECRETARY TANAKA CAME IN UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO SEE DEPUTY TO THE UNDER SECRETARY NYE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOSENZO CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF MB-10 APPROVAL FOR KANSAI SPENT FUEL. SUMIYA SAID THAT THE GOJ WAS AWARE THAT THE JAPANESE CASE FOR APPROVAL OF THE KANSAI SPENT FUEL SHIPMENT HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO THE US A NUMBER OF TIMES. HOWEVER, GOJ WAS CONCERNED THAT TIME WAS SHORT AND INDICATED THEY NEEDED A DECISION IN MID-AUGUST. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY, SUMIYA CLARIFIED THAT THE SHIP TO PICK UP THE SPENT FUEL ARRIVES IN JAPAN IN SEPTEMBER BUT LEAVES ENGLAND IN AUGUST AND THUS THE GOJ WOULD LIKE A RESPONSE BEFORE THE SHIP DEPARTS FOR JAPAN.

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2. SUMIYA WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN ASSISTING THE US IN ITS CONSIDERATION, TOKYO HAD TWO SUGGESTIONS:

(A) THE GOJ WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE A LETTER FROM THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO US OFFICIALS CONTAINING THREE POINTS:

(I) JAPAN WAS PREPARED TO REAFFIRM ITS ASSURANCES CONCERNING ITS NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY OBJECTIVES AS REFLECTED IN THE TOKAI JOINT COMMUNIQUE;

(II) GOJ UNDERSTANDS THAT US DETERMINATION ON MB-10S IS MADE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND THAT US APPROVAL OF THIS TRANSFER WOULD IN NO WAY PREJUDICE FUTURE DECISIONS REGARDING JAPANESE MB-10S. HOWEVER, JAPAN HOPES THAT THE US POLICY WILL ALLOW SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THIS REGARD IN LINE WITH ITS ASSURANCES IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE; AND,

(III) ALTHOUGH THE GOJ RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WAS STILL ADDITIONAL SPACE AVAILABLE FOR SPENT FUEL AT THE KANSAI FACILITY, IF THE SPENT FUEL IS NOT TRANSFERRED AS SCHEDULED, THIS COULD CAUSE SEVERE PUBLIC REACTION FROM AREAS AROUND THE KANSAI FACILITY;

(B) IF IT WOULD FACILITATE SOLVING THE CURRENT MB-10 ISSUE THE GOJ WAS PREPARED TO HAVE AMERICAN EXPERTS COME TO JAPAN FOR A TECHNICAL MEETING ON POSSIBLE STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL IN THE PACIFIC BASIN. THE GOJ WAS PREPARED TO LISTEN TO WHATEVER PACIFIC BASIN SCHEMES THE US MIGHT HAVE TO OFFER, BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR POSITIONS IN INFCE. SUMIYA SAID THAT THIS LATTER AGREEMENT TO MEET ON PACIFIC BASIN STORAGE WAS SEPARATE AND WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED GOJ LETTER OF (A) ABOVE.

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3. NYE INDICATED THAT THESE SUGGESTIONS WERE VERY HELPFUL. THE USG RECOGNIZED THE URGENCY BOTH WITH REGARD TO JAPANESE SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS AND ALSO THAT SHOULD THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION BE A POSITIVE ONE, THE SUBSEQUENT ARRANGEMENT MUST LIE BEFORE CONGRESS FOR 15 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS SESSION. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE KANSAI CASE, THIS MATTER WOULD HAVE TO GO TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DECISION. IN RESPONSE TO SUMIYA'S INQUIRY, NYE INDICATED THAT WE MOST LIKELY WOULD BE GOING FORWARD WITH A DECISION MEMORANDUM NEXT WEEK BUT THAT HAVING THE PROPOSED GOJ LETTER TO INCLUDE IN THE PACKAGE WOULD BE VERY USEFUL. SUMIYA SAID THAT THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD PROVIDE SUCH A LETTER BY THEN. VANCE

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